
Introduced by Senator Rubio

(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Calderon, Cannella, De León, DeSaulnier, Fuller, Gaines, Hancock, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Lieu, Monning, Padilla, Pavley, Steinberg, Wolk, Wright, and Yee)
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Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to Yosemite National Park.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as introduced, Rubio. Yosemite National Park: boundary adjustment.

This measure would declare the Legislature's support for adjusting the boundary of the Yosemite National Park to include an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent to the southwest boundary of the park, further bounded by the Sierra National Forest, and owned by 2 landowners who have expressed their desire to add that area to the park to protect the integrity of the Yosemite National Park and the Sierra National Forest. This measure would urge the United States Congress to act expeditiously in adjusting the boundary of the park.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The incomparable Yosemite is a federally
2 designated national park spanning eastern portions of the Counties
3 of Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Madera in the central eastern portion
4 of California. The park covers an area of over 760,000 acres and
5 reaches across the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain
6 chain; and

7 WHEREAS, Along with Yosemite's stunning beauty and vast
8 mountainous views and spectacular waterfalls, it is one of the

1 largest and least fragmented habitat regions in the Sierra Nevada,
2 and the park supports a diversity of plants and animals. The park
3 has an elevation range from two to 13,000 feet and contains five
4 major vegetation zones: chaparral/oak woodland, lower mountain
5 forest, upper mountain forest, subalpine zone, and alpine. Of
6 California's 7,000 plant species, about 50 percent occur in the
7 Sierra Nevada and more than 20 percent are within Yosemite.
8 There is suitable habitat for more than 160 rare plants in the park;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A federal park bill was passed by both houses of
11 the 38th United States Congress and signed by President Abraham
12 Lincoln on June 30, 1864, creating the Yosemite grant; while the
13 Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were initially ceded to
14 California as a state park, they were returned to the United States
15 government by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906; and

16 WHEREAS, Yosemite was named one of America's first
17 National Parks in 1890, and remains one of the country's most
18 popular natural attractions with over 3.7 million people visiting
19 Yosemite each year; and

20 WHEREAS, Rural residential development adjacent to the park
21 creates resource management challenges for the park, the adjacent
22 Sierra National Forest, as well as local government because of the
23 difficulty of providing county services such as fire protection,
24 water, and road services to such a remote location; and

25 WHEREAS, There is an approximately 1,575 acre area adjacent
26 to the southwest boundary of Yosemite National Park, further
27 bounded by Sierra National Forest, owned by two landowners who
28 have expressed their desire to add that area to the park; and

29 WHEREAS, The inclusion of this area within the national park
30 has been unanimously supported by the Mariposa County Board
31 of Supervisors and in 2012 United States Congressman Jim Costa
32 introduced House Resolution 5709 to adjust the boundary of
33 Yosemite National Park to allow these willing landowners to
34 transfer this property to the park; and

35 WHEREAS, The proposed boundary line adjustment
36 appropriates no funds, but would allow the future acquisition of
37 these lands using existing programs such as the Land and Water
38 Conservation Fund; and

39 WHEREAS, The Yosemite National Park is currently preparing
40 for a 150th anniversary celebration in 2014; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
2 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports adjusting the
3 boundary of Yosemite National Park to include this property to
4 protect the integrity of Yosemite National Park and the Sierra
5 National Forest; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the United States
7 Congress to act expeditiously on this boundary adjustment; and
8 be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California
11 in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for
12 appropriate distribution.